

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A device for processing information in a database, comprising:

a processor configured to:

select data of the database according to selection criteria,

arrange selected data in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the representation space comprising a plurality of positions which can receive data elements that are representative of the selected data,

pre-define at least one related representation area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

specify at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related representation areas,

position the data bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related representation area corresponding to the data bootstrapping element,

successively determine new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related representation area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the selected data,

and automatically and successively position at least a part of the new data elements in the related representation area, at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions are not already occupied by data elements already positioned, the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined by the device for processing information at each user request;

wherein the processor is further configured to use, for the proximity order relation, at least one of the relations based on: a number of identical terms in the contents, a number of similar terms for a predefined part of the contents, a difference in dates in the contents, a number of similar graphic patterns in the contents, and a number of similar sound patterns in the contents.

2. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to form neighborhood cards centered on the data elements already positioned, each of the neighborhood cards centered on one of the data elements already positioned giving data elements neighboring the data element in accordance with the proximity order relation, and to select the new data elements from the neighboring data elements and to place them in the related representation area corresponding to the data element already positioned at positions neighboring the data element.

3. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processor is further configured to place the neighboring data elements at positions relative to the data element in the related representation area, which correspond to the positions relative to the data element of the neighboring data elements in the neighborhood card.

4. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processor is further configured to supply the neighborhood cards to representation means for the attention of the user.

5. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to exclude from the new data elements, the data elements already positioned, so as to represent, at the most once, each of the data elements in the representation space.

6. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to determine and position the new data elements when there are selections by the user, in the representation space, as positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to specify a data bootstrapping element according to a user profile.

9. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to allow a user to construct the related representation area.

10. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to specify a first data bootstrapping element in one of the related representation areas, then to specify the other data bootstrapping elements from the first data bootstrapping element by the proximity order relation.

11. (currently amended) An audiovisual apparatus, comprising:

- a selecting unit configured to select data of the database according to selection criteria,

- an arranging unit configured to arrange selected data in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the representation space comprising a plurality of positions which can receive data elements that are representative of the selected data,

- a pre-defining unit configured to pre-define at least one related representation area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

- a specifying unit configured to specify at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related representation areas,

- a positioning unit configured to position the data bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related representation area corresponding to the data bootstrapping element,

- a determining unit configured to successively determine new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related representation area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the selected data,

a processor configured to use, for the proximity order relation, at least one of the relations based on: a number of identical terms in the contents, a number of similar terms for a predefined part of the contents, a difference in dates in the contents, a number of similar graphic patterns in the contents, and a number of similar sound patterns in the contents, and

a processing circuit configured to automatically and successively position at least a part of the new data elements in the related representation area, at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions are not already occupied by data elements already positioned, the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined by the device for processing information at each user request.

12. (currently amended) A method for processing information in a database, comprising:

selecting data from the database according to selection criteria,

arranging the selected data, in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the representation space comprising a plurality of positions that can receive data elements that are representative of the data,

pre-defining at least one representation related area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

specifying at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related representation areas,

positioning the data bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related representation area corresponding to the data element,

successively determining new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related representation area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the data,

using, for the proximity order relation, at least one of the relations based on: a number of identical terms in the contents, a number of similar terms for a predefined part of the contents, a difference in dates in the contents, a number of similar graphic patterns in the contents, and a number of similar sound patterns in the contents,

and

successively positioning of at least a part of new data elements in the related representation area at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions not be already occupied by data elements already positioned, the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined for processing information at each user request,

wherein said selecting data includes the specifying and successive determining, and the arranging includes the pre-defining, positioning the data bootstrapping element and successive positioning.

13. (previously presented) A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing a computer program, which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method as claimed in claim 12.